Corruption in Railways

338. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in the 'Tribune' dated the 1st January, 1996, regarding corruption in the higher ranks of the Indian Railways in collusion with the Food Corporation of India and Government procuring agencies in the allotment of rakes for transportation of foodgrains; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI): (a) Yes, Sir. However, neither any complaint nor any corrupt practice of such nature has come to the notice and the newspaper report was not found correct.

(b) Doss not arise.

Killings in J & K

339. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of civilians and paramilitary personnel killed/injured due to Pakistani firing and subversive activities during December, 1995 and January, 1996 and in February, 1996, separately category-wise and month-wise;

(b) whether any compensation has been paid to the civilians;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what preventive steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) As per available information only one civilian died due to Pakistani firing on the Jammu border during the month of January, 1996. The details regarding civilians and security force personnel who were killed/injured due to subversive activities during the period are as under:—

		December 1995	January 1996	February, 15, 1996
Civilians	Killed	82	105	71
	injured	67	74	39
S/forces	Killed	05	12	04
	injured	16	26	13

(b) and (c) An ex-gratia relief of Rupees one lakh in each case in being paid to next of kin of the innocent civilians killed in Pakistani firing and militant violence in the state.

(d) Various steps have been taken to contain incidence of border/LOC firing and to fight militancy in the state, which inter alia include flag meetings between field commanders, intensified patrolling along the LOC, coordination between security forces, and setting up of village defence committees.

Indo-US joint military exercise

340. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a joint military exercise between India and the US is going to be held shortly in the Arabian sea; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE AND